

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04494 130950Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03 HA-05
MCE-00 EB-08 /077 W
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R 130710Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1596
INFO SECDEF WASH DC//ASD/ISA(SA)/DSAA//
DA WASH DC//DALO-SAC//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CDR USASAC ALEX VA//DRSAC-MM/ME//
AFAFC DENVER CO//SAAC//
CDR USATARCOM WARREN MI//DRSTA-BEE//

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4494

DEPT FOR PM-SAS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJ: GOK REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF M88A1 MEDIUM RECOVERY VEHICLES

REF: 77 STATE 207984

1. THE GOK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT AN FMS CASE BE PREPARED FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHT M88A1 MEDIUM RECOVERY VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND SPARES (LISTED UNDER CATEGORY VII, APPENDIX C, MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT LISTS).

2. THE GOK ARMED FORCES HAVE ON HAND 110 VICKERS/CENTURION TANKS AND HAVE RECEIVED 47 OF THE 175 CHIEFTAIN TANKS PURCHASED FROM THE UK. THE GOK REQUIRES THE M88A1 MEDIUM RECOVERY VEHICLE TO PROVIDE THE KUWAIT ARMED FORCES WITH A CAPABILITY TO RETRIEVE DISABLED TANKS FROM THE FIELD. THERE ARE IB VEHICLES WITH THIS CAPABILITY IN THE KUWAIT ARMED FORCES INVENTORY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04494 130950Z

3. THE PURCHASE OF THESE VEHICLES IS CONSIDERED A LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT REQUIREMENT FOR TANKS ALREADY PURCHASED. THIS SMALL NUMBER OF VEHICLES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT OF THECNOMBAT CAPABILITIES OF THE KAF, BUT IN NO WAY ALTER THE REGIONAL BALANCE OF POWER.

4. EXISTING FACILITIES AND MANPOWER QUALIFICATIONS ARE SUFFICIENT TO ABSORB AND SUPPORT THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. NO OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE AMERICANS WILL BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THIS SALE.

5. NO USG FINANCING REQUIRED; GOK WILL PAY CASH.

6. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON KUWAIT WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE.

7. SALE OF THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT CONTRAVENE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

8. QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT A PROBLEM IN KUWAIT.

9. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE THE SALE OF THIS SMALL NUMBER OF TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES WHICH ARE FAR FEWER THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TANKS IN KAF INVENTORY WOULD NORMALLY REQUIRE. WHILE THEORETICALLY THIS TYPE OF VEHICLE COULD TRANSPORT TANKS TO ANOTHER COMBATANT THEIR SMALL NUMBER AND THE DISTANCES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED PRECLUDE ANY POSSIBLE USE IN THIS FASHION. SINCE THE U.S. HAS SOLD KUWAIT A VARIETY OF COMBAT ARMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE, THE EMBASSY SEES NO REASON WHY SUCH A LOGICAL REQUEST FOR A STANDARD ITEM OF EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT AN ARMORED FORCE SHOULD BE REFUSED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04494 130950Z

10. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF GOK REQUEST AND PREPARATION OF LETTER OF OFFER TO GOK FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A. 8 EA - M88A1 MEDIUM RECOVERY VEHICLES TO INCLUDE: WEAPONS RADIOS, AND OVM/BASIC ISSUE ITEM.

B. 2 YEAR CSP TO SUPPORT THE 8 EA M88A1 MEDIUM RECOVERY VEHICLES TO INCLUDE MA04 ASSEMBLIES, REPAIR PARTS, AND AMMUNITION TO SUPPORT THE VEHICLES AND MAJOR COMPONENTS. MAESTRONE

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